

Expo2001: Opening Remarks for Hon. Don Ritter Panel: Climate Change and Industry

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the climate change and industry panel. I'm your moderator, Don Ritter. My background is in Science and Engineering, in Congress as a member for 14 years and I serve presently as Chairman of the National Environmental Policy Institute (NEPI).

We have exciting panelists in the persons of:

First, Dr. Dan Lashof of the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Dan is a believer that significant global warming is taking place and that significant measures are required to address it. He attended the conferences in Kyoto and Buenos Aires and he speaks and works widely on developing policies responding to climate change.

Second, Dr. Fred Singer, founder and President of the Science and Environment Policy Project (SEPP) was a distinguished atmospheric scientist long before the climate change discussion came along. He is well known for his critique of the global warming scenario and advocates a "go slow while focusing intensely on the science" kind of approach.

Our third panelist, Ed Mongan represents Dupont as their Global Manager of Environmental Stewardship. He's Dupont's person on the Environmental Defense-led partnership for climate action. One might characterize Dupont as seeking to modify corporate practice to reduce greenhouse gases even with uncertainty in the big picture.

I'd like to comment briefly to help launch the panel.

First, wherever you come down on the issue, you have to admit, it has created quite a stir. Global warming, now global climate change, is notable for its sheer size and scope. Billions of dollars are spent annually to address it. It would be interesting to tally up the global investments. Scores of conferences are held by participants crisscrossing the globe. It's a traveler's and travel industry delight

Governments and NGOs and industries of the world participate.

The very idea of man possibly overheating his world has attracted vast numbers of scientists, politicians, environmentalists, industrialists, journalists and, of course, passionate believers and skeptics.

In a word, global warming has spawned a new industry and we're here at this panel to learn a little more about it. Let's begin!